

THE MELTING POT NEWSLETTER

Frederick Abisi Adult Education Center

408 Merrimack St, Lowell MA, 01854



www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com

(978)937-8989



@ Frederick Abisi
Adult Education

We're Back!

It has been 2 years since the last AAEC Newsletter. When schools transitioned to remote learning in March 2020, many of our school services stopped, including this newsletter. We are happy to be back to in-person learning and are offering many services including ESOL and HSE classes, job and career assistance, a conversation class, a school library, and more!

The Melting Pot is a monthly publication to keep students at Abisi Adult Education Center informed of services available to them at school and in the community.

Mission Statement and Culture of Respect

Our mission is to provide each and every adult in Greater Lowell with opportunities to develop literacy and math skills needed to qualify for further education, job training and better employment; and to reach his/her full potential as a family member, productive worker, and citizen.

At Abisi Adult Education Center, all students and staff are considerate of each other. We learn from and respect each other's diverse talents and differences in culture, education, economic status, color, race, and religion.

Attendance Matters



**"The Road to Success Begins
with Good Attendance"**

You are expected to be in class every day and to be on time. If you miss too many days, you risk losing your space to someone who is on our waiting list.

If you know in advance that you will be absent, let your teacher know. You can also send an email to:

ESOL Classes—apearson@lowell.k12.ma.us
or

HSE Classes—bgoodridge@lowell.k12.ma.us

If you don't have email, you can call (978)937-8989. Leave a detailed message stating your name, teacher, and reason for your absence.

Some student names and pictures have been removed from the newsletter, as some students have taken the option given at registration to request that their names and/or pictures not be used in any publications.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Parking

Parking is often difficult in downtown Lowell, and it can be costly. Students driving to school are encouraged to park at the Ayotte Garage, 11 Post Office Sq., Lowell, across from Lowell High School.

On-street, metered parking is also available. Meters have a 2-hour parking limit Monday through Saturday, from 8:00am-6:00pm. It costs \$3.00/2 hours. The kiosk accepts cash and credit/debit cards. If a pay kiosk is not working, go to another one, and enter your space number. Do not forget to pay the meter, or you may get ticketed.

- *Do not park in the school parking lot.*
- *Do not park in the library parking lot.*
- *Do not park in the Santander Bank parking lot.*
- *Do not park in the Olympia Restaurant parking lot.*
- *Do not park in the Lowell Housing Authority parking lot.*



Cars may be ticketed and towed.

Cell Phone Reminders

Make sure your cell phones are turned off and put away before entering your class. Cell phones ringing and buzzing during class distract everyone.



Visitor Policy

All outside visitors must report to the main office and sign-in and out.

For the safety of all our AAEC students, outside visitors are not allowed to contact students during class time or to interrupt classes.

If you forgot something at home or someone needs to leave something for you, make arrangements to meet them after class. Deliveries and drop-offs are not accepted in the office. Please make sure you have all of your materials and items before you leave for school.

If there is an emergency, please speak with the office staff, and they can assist you.

School Closings/Delays

If there is **NO SCHOOL** in the Lowell Public Schools—All Morning and Evening classes are cancelled.

If there is a **one-hour delay**, there will be no 9:00am ESOL classes. HSE classes will begin at 11:00am. Evening classes will meet at the regularly scheduled time.

If there is a **two-hour delay**, there will be no 9:00am ESOL classes. HSE classes will begin at 11:00am. Evening classes will meet at the regularly scheduled time.

School cancellation or delay information can found by:

- Visiting our website, www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com
- Looking on Facebook
- Watching the local news/Listening to WCAP (980AM) or WBZ (1030AM)



PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Offerings

The Abisi Adult Education Center offers two types of classes: English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and High School Equivalency (HSE). We offer morning and evening in-person and remote classes for residents living in the Greater Lowell area (Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, or Westford).



High School Equivalency (HSE)

High School Equivalency (HSE) classes help students improve their reading, writing, and math skills to take the high school equivalency exams, increase their career readiness skills, and/or prepare for college entrance exams.

Students ages 16-18 must bring a formal withdrawal form from the last school they attended.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)



Classes are for adult learners whose native language is not English. Students must be at least 18 years old. Photo ID and proof of address are required before starting classes.

All instruction is in English. Reading, writing, and speaking skills are taught. Students are placed in introductory, beginner, or intermediate classes.



Class Registration

Programs of study begin every year in September.

Enrollment begins in August and continues through most of the school year.

Registration for in-person and remote classes is available online on our website:

www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com

If you are not able to register online and need to schedule an in-person appointment, please contact us.

<p>For ESOL classes – Jennifer:</p> <p>Email: jcarrasquillo@lowell.k12.ma.us</p> <p>Text: (978)674-8542</p>	<p>For HSE Classes - Sarah:</p> <p>Email: swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us</p> <p>Text: (978)483-0332.</p>
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UPDATE 2/24/22:

Registration has closed for all EVENING classes for this school year.

If you have any questions, please refer to our website at www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com, or call our main office at (978)937-8989.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

High School Equivalency (HSE) Testing information

The Massachusetts High School Equivalency credential is accepted by virtually all colleges, universities, and employers in the United States as equivalent to a high school diploma. In order to earn the credential, you must take and pass either the HiSET® or GED® test. These tests are comparable in terms of cognitive complexity and rates of passing.

The Abisi Adult Education Center offers classes that will prepare students to take either exam and is an approved test center. We offer *HiSET*® testing appointments for both Paper-Based Testing and Computer-Based Testing and *GED*® Computer-Based Testing. Testing dates are posted below and on our website at www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com.

Detailed information about the two testing options, state requirements, accommodations for testers with disabilities, eligibility requirements, and other important information can be found on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) website at www.doe.mass.edu/hse/. Denise, in the office, is also available to help you.

HSE Upcoming Testing Dates:

HiSET Computer-Based Testing

(Thursday afternoons @ 12:30pm)

March 3 & 17

April 7 & 28

May 12 & 19

June 2

HiSET Paper Testing Dates

(Friday evenings & Saturday mornings)

March 11 & 12

April 8 & 9

May 20 & 21

June 24 & 25

GED Weekend Computer Testing

(Friday evenings & Saturday mornings)

March 11 & 12

April 8 & 9

May 20 & 21

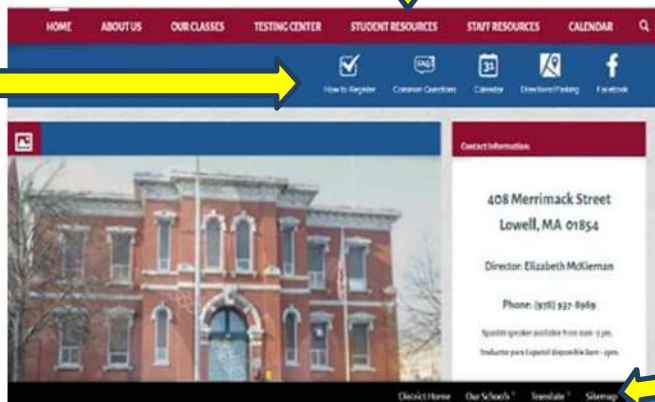
June 24 & 25

Abisi Adult Education Website

The AAEC website, www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com, is a great tool for students to use outside of the classroom. It provides students with a variety of resources all in one place. You can find information about our program, classes, and GED/HiSET Testing. The Student Resource Section has a Community Resource Guide, links to educational websites, information about college readiness, employment, and more.

The icons in the blue section are direct links to some of our most popular pages, including our Facebook Page! Be sure to visit and like us! Need to view the information in a different language? Don't miss the translate button in the black bar, directly underneath our Contact information.

These icons are direct links to some of our most visited pages.



The Student Resources Section is packed with information to help you achieve your goals!

The translate button can be used to translate our website into many languages.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Meet Our Staff

HSE Teachers and Staff



Christina and Maura are the Lead Teachers in our HSE Program. They teach along with Martha, Esther, Donna, Robin, Nancy, Diandra, and Barbara.

ESOL Teachers and Staff



Meg, Liz, and Susan are the Lead Teachers in our ESOL Program. They teach along with Carrie, Ann, Debbie, Elaine, Mary Gail, Paul, Gail, Gerry, Jen, and Daisy.

Career and Educational Advisors

Our Career and Educational Advisors are available to help you with your job search and/or education plans. They work together with you to create resumes, assist in the process of searching for a job, decide on which work-training program or college to attend. They can also help you connect with services and activities in the community.



Cindy works with our morning ESOL students. She is here Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:00am - 1:00pm.

Her office is located in the back of Room 6 on the second floor.



Martha works with our HSE students. She is here Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30am - 1:00pm.

She is also available by appointment. Her office is located in the back of Room 6 on the second floor.



Margie is your connection to the MassHire Lowell Career Center. It is a community organization that helps people search for a job or get a better job. She can help you learn about the different services they offer and become a MassHire member.

Margie's office is located on the second floor, in the back of Room 5.

Margie is available to meet with students at:

- ❖ AAEC on Wednesdays from 11:00am-12:30pm
Thursdays from 8:30am-1:00pm, or
Fridays from 10:30am-12:30pm.
- ❖ MassHire Lowell Career Center on
Wednesdays from 8:30- 11:00
Fridays from 8:30am-10:30am.



Students who are interested in learning more about their programs and available resources and becoming Career Center members, see Margie, Cindy, or Martha

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Student Services Coordinator and HSE Testing Specialist

Adriana is our Student Services Coordinator. She works closely with our Director, teachers, and students to implement different programs related to students' goals and coordinating special school activities. She can assist you in connecting with people at agencies in the community and give you information about cultural events and city services. You can find Adriana's office on the first floor in the back of Susan's room.



Denise is our HSE Testing Specialist. She facilitates the HiSET® and GED® Computer-Based Testing and is available to help with test registration and answer your general testing questions. You can find her in the Main Office.

Student Registrars and Office Administration



Jennifer, Amanda, and Sarah are our Student Registrars for the ESOL and HSE Programs. Amanda also maintains student records and attendance for all our ESOL programs.



Gladys is our School Clerk. She is the first person to greet you in the Main Office and can provide you with information regarding classes and registration for our ESOL and HSE programs. Gladys also facilitates the HiSET Paper-Based testing.



Betty is the Director of the Abisi Adult Education Program. Her office is located on the Main Floor of our building. Her door is always open to students.



Carl is our custodian. He keeps our building clean and running smoothly. His office is located on the Lower Level.



Barbara maintains the student records and attendance for all our HSE classes. She also teaches a Math class in the morning program.

STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES



Abisi Adult Education Program

The 2014 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires states to provide Integrated Education and Training (IET) and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE) services. Adult education instruction is provided simultaneously with workforce preparation activities and workforce training (i.e., occupational skills training).

MassSTEP ESOL includes ESOL instruction, workforce preparation activities, civics education, and workforce training. The purpose of this service is to facilitate credential attainment, workforce readiness, and entry into the workforce.

As part of this initiative, Abisi Adult Education Center is currently offering a Certified Nursing Assistance (CNA) training in partnership with The International Institute of NE and Middlesex Community College for students enrolled in our English classes.

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)



International
Institute of
New England



- The program offers 200 hours of instruction which includes ESL support, CNA/HHA coursework, and hands-on clinical skills training.
- Students who graduate receive CNA/HHA certificates from Middlesex Community College.
- Each student can take one free American Red Cross CNA license exam that is scheduled by the ESL instructor.
- Job placement assistance is provided for graduates.

Students must have U.S. work authorization in order to apply and must pass a basic English language screening to enroll in the program.

Citizenship Class

Students in this class learn and practice the skills needed to pass the citizenship interview.

AAEC offers this class in-person, Tuesdays and Wednesdays with Paul; and remotely, Mondays and Tuesdays with Gail.

Class covers:

- The 100 Civics Questions
- Understanding the questions on the N-400 Application for Naturalization
- Reading and writing practice
- Citizenship interview practice

If you are interested in becoming a part of this class, please see your teacher. Students enrolled in this class must have excellent attendance in their ESOL class.



For more information please contact:

Gail Forman

AAEC Civics and Citizenship Teacher

gforman@lowell.k12.ma.us

(978)918-3519

STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

ESOL Lending Library and Reading Program

The AAEC ESOL program started its lending library on January 25th. Teachers have set aside class time so students can participate in this endeavor to improve their reading skills and to encourage parents to get their children to love reading.

There is a mobile library in the bistro and on the first floor with a variety of titles. There is something for everybody's taste and abilities.

Thank you Susan for leading this project.



COMING SOON!

AAEC wants to recognize students' efforts and extra time whenever they borrow books from our library cart and fill out the forms the teachers give out. Teachers are keeping track of the points students have earned. Soon you can use these points to get some of the items shown in the picture! Keep reading!



Pollard Memorial Library Tour

Carrie and Ann's classes will visit the Pollard Memorial Library in Lowell in March.

Civics teacher Gail has made arrangements to bring the classes on a tour, learn about the services, and enjoy the art and history of the building. Bridget, the Community Planning Librarian, assisted Gail in scheduling the tours and will assemble informational packets for the students.

Participatory Action Research (PAR)

Meet with UMass Lowell professors to research how you can improve classes and services at AAEC!

If you choose to be part of the project, you will:

- Meet with UMass Lowell researchers regularly and discuss your ideas about your English learning
- Learn how to do research
- Do research
- Practice English as you do it
- Make recommendations to AAEC leaders

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) Free Tax Return Preparation

The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals.

Please see our document list (www.commteam.org/program/volunteer-income-tax-assistance-vita/) to make sure you have everything you need before you start your preparation. CTI will offer online and drop-off services for tax preparation.

<u>Online Filing</u>	<u>Drop-Off Now / Pick Up Later</u>
Monday, January 24th, 2022 through Friday, April 15th, 2022	Saturday, February 5th, 2022 through Saturday April 2nd, 2022
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visit www.getyourrefund.org/cti 2. Answer a few questions 3. Upload your Identification & tax documentation <p style="text-align: center;">**Accessible via Computer, Laptop, Tablet or Smartphone**</p>	<p>At 165 Merrimack St. Lowell, MA 01852 Saturdays only You will need to pick up an Intake & Instruction Packet ahead of time</p> <p style="text-align: center;">**Packets are limited to 30 clients per week.**</p>

We CANNOT prepare returns for the following: *Cancellation of Debt due to foreclosure or insolvency *Foreign students *Business income *Military income *International income *Rental real estate *Stocks, dividends, or bonds *Ride Sharing (Uber/Lyft) *Online Investing

QUESTIONS?

Call, Email, or Visit their Website

www.commteam.org/vita

Eric Rosario 978-735-6748 or erosario@commteam.org



Preschool Registration

2022-2023

The First Chapter in a Great Education Story

- Social Skills
- Language & Literacy Development
- Explore Math, Science, and Social Studies

QUESTIONS?

Laurie Carney
lauriecarney@lowell.k12.ma.us
978-446-7000

Laura Valdez Ivaldez@lowell.k12.ma.us
978-674-2065



March 7 - March 31
Register online:
lowell.k12.ma.us/preschoolregistration
or
at the Family Resource Center
151 Merrimack St.

Children must be 4 by Sept. 1

Transportation not provided

Full-day offered at Greenhalge and Cardinal O'Connell only

Information on Kindergarten Registration coming soon

Please join Alternative House for
White Ribbon Day 2022





THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE.

WHEN: THURSDAY, MARCH 10th, 2022

WHERE: LOBBY, LOWELL CITY HALL

TIME: 12pm

Masks are required

**COME & MAKE THE WHITE RIBBON
DAY PLEDGE:**

**Never Commit, Excuse, or Remain Silent About
Male Violence Against Women**

For more info contact: 978-937-5777
or info@alternative-house.org

24/7/365 Survivor Hotline
978-454-1436
1-888-291-6228













**Held in partnership with the City Manager's
Task Force on Domestic Violence**



School Activities Calendar

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3  CBT @ 12:30pm	4	5
6	7 Welcome New Students ESOL Orientation 8:30 and 10:30 Susan's Room	8	9	10	11  CBT starting @ 5:15pm  PBT starting @ 5:00pm	12  CBT starting @ 8:00am  PBT starting @ 8:00am
13  Spring Ahead Set your clocks one hour ahead	14	15	16	17  St Patrick's Day  CBT @ 12:30pm	18	19
20  First Day of Spring	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	 Taxes are due by April 18!	